BULLETIN #10-02e

January 2010

Acknowledgements

African Refugee Education and **Cultural Services**

American Red Cross (ARC) of **Greater Columbus**

City of Columbus

Columbus Public Health

FIRSTLINK

Franklin County Board of Health

Franklin County Board of Commissioners

Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Helping Africans in a New Direction

Horn of Africa Community Center

Somali Community Access Network

Somali Community Association of Ohio

Somali Women's & Children's Alliance

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Weather Alert Radios

Emergency preparedness information from Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

How a weather alert radio can keep you safe

A weather alert radio broadcasts round-the-clock weather reports from the National Weather Service.

This special radio also alerts you if there is a dangerous storm or other emergency

threatening the area.

This includes tornadoes. floods, ice/snow storms, 911 telephone outages, AMBER alerts, terrorist attacks and other emergencies.

HOW IT WORKS: During emergencies, vour weather alert radio will be activated auto-

matically. Your radio will sound an alarm designed to wake you if you are sleeping.

The alarm alerts you to turn on the radio receiver. You will then hear important information about the emergency.

The broadcasts are in English. Listeners with limited English proficiency should make arrangements beforehand to translate the information.

Read the owner's instruc-

tion manual to learn how your radio works.

VISUAL ALERTS: Some radios will display a written alert about the emergency.

One such model is the Midland® WR-100. For exam-

A red light means "warning," indicating that an emergency exists and you should take protective action now. This action will depend on the emergency.

An orange light means

"watch," indicating that conditions might produce an emergency and you should be prepared to act quickly to be safe.

A yellow light means "advisory," indicating that you should stay informed about current and projected conditions.



This illustration shows how a tornado alert would be visually displayed on the Midland WR-100 radio.

ple, if listeners are being alerted to a possible tornado, this radio will display the word "TORNADO" on the front panel (see illustration). A tornado is one of nature's most violent windstorms.

Different words will be displayed depending on the type of emergency.

Also during an alert, one of three lights will be illuminated in the top-right corner of the WR-100's front panel.

BATTERY BACKUP: Your radio should have a battery backup in case the electricity goes out. You should change the batteries at least twice a year and keep extra fresh batteries close to the radio.

Weather alert radios can be purchased at many retail stores and on the Internet. For more information, go to the National Weather Service's NOAA Weather Radio Web site: www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr.